

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01953 140511Z

22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /014 W

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R 140413Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6867

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 1953

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, LA

SUBJECT: VIENTIANE LAO PERSIST IN HABIT OF LISTENING TO
WESTERN MUSIC

USIA FOR IEA

DEPT FOR EA/VLC

1. AN IRATE READER WROTE TO THE EDITOR OF "SIENG PASASON"
COMPLAINING THAT DESPITE THE ADVANCES MADE UNDER THE NEW
REGIME, UGLY WESTERN MUSIC CAN STILL BE HEARD IN VIENTIANE'S
RESTAURANTS, STORES AND RADIO SHOPS. THE WRITER ASKED "SIENG
PASASON" TO TAKE STEPS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

2. REPLYING IN ITS LETTER TO THE EDITOR COLUMN ON AUGUST 8,
"SIENG PASASON" NOTED THAT THERE WERE STRINGENT REGULATIONS
AGAINST THIS "UGLY" MUSIC AND THAT BOTH OFFICIALS AND "SIENG
PASASON" ITSELF HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MADE PLAIN THE
REGIME'S POSITION. NONETHELESS, THE EDITOR ADMITTED, FOR SOME
OF THESE RESTAURANT AND SHOP OWNERS THE WARNINGS GO IN ONE EAR
AND OUT THE OTHER. INDEED, REPORTERS FROM THE NEWSPAPER HAD
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WALKED DOWN THE STREETS OF VIENTIANE,
VISITING SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS, HEARING SUCH MUSIC. EITHER SHOP
OWNERS WERE PLAYING "WILD" MUSIC SO LOUDLY AS TO CAUSE A
PUBLIC NUISANCE OR RESTAURANTS WERE PLAYING "SOFT, FLABBY, SAD
SAIGON" MUSIC, WHICH, THE EDITOR NOTES, WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE
ONE "JUMP IN THE RIVER AND DROWN" IN A FIT OF EMPATHETIC

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FEELING.

3. "WE ALL WELL KNOW", THE EDITOR SAYS IN HIS STEM WINDING PERORATION, "THAT THE PEOPLE LOVE THE NEW ORDER. BUT SUCH INSTANCES AS THIS SHOW THAT THE LOVE FOR THE NEW REGIME IS NOT YET COMPLETE."

4. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EDITOR URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO ONCE AGAIN EXPLAIN THE NEW REGULATIONS TO THE SHOP OWNERS AND CALLS ON THE PEOPLE TO COOPERATE IN "WIPING OUT ALL REMNANTS OF THE OLD CULTURE" AND "BUILDING FOR OUR REPUBLIC A BEAUTIFUL CULTURE AND ART."
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